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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): N. TAMURA
Serial No.: (not yet assigned)
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For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND VACUUM
PROCESSING METHOD

REAFFIRMATION OF CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 10, 2003

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 and 37 CFR §1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-062244, filed in Japan on March 7, 2002.

The certified copy of the above-referred to Japanese Patent Application were filed on October 10, 2002 in prior application Serial No. 10/218,406, filed August 15, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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